THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY - OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) available information indicates that the deaths due to consumption of spurious liquor had gone up from 871 in 1993 to 961 in 1994. Information pertaining to the subsequent period is not readily available. It is essentially for the State Governments to prevent manufacture of hooch through constant and effective vigil by their enforcement agencies including police.

Navy Patrolling in Kutch

2690. DR. Y. LAKSHM1 PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite patrolling in the seas off the coast of Kutch the Indian Navy failed to check smuggling and anti-India activities of ISI;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for purposeful patrolling in Kutch border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE. (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) There have not been any reported violations of the sea routes nor any anti-India ISI activities in the Kutch region since the institution of 'Operation SWAN'

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The patrolling and surveillance of the Kutch border areas is being carried out jointly by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard supported by the Central Agencies and the State Government of Gujarat.

Modernisation of Air Force

2691. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to stiitc:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the speech of Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marsha] S.K. Sareen, published in daily -Jagran' dated 27th November, 1996 in which he emphasized .the modernisation of Indian Air Force in view of the ongoing upheavals at international level; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for the modernisation of Air Force in view of the increasing threat to the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Modernisation of the IAF is a continous process and necessary steps, in pursuance thereof, have been taken, keeping in view current as well as futuristic threat perceptions. These include, *inter alia* mid life upgradation of some of the existing weapon systems/aircraft to enhance their operational capability, acquisition of additional air defence/air superiority as well as multirole aircraft to maintain the current force level for a longer period, and induction of state-of-the-art multirole aircraft to cater for retirement of ageing combat fleet in the IAF's inventory. The Government has also taken steps to strengthen electronic warfare armour of the IAF as well as provision of precision guided munitions to enhance accuracy and lethality of its strike power. IAF's combat aircraft and attack helicopter are also being equipped with night attack capability to enable them to operate in both day and night conditions.

Favourism in Allotment of Shops by NDMC

2692. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDMC have constructed a shopping complex at Baird Lane, New Delhi known as Shahccd Bhagat Singh Place;

(b) if so, whether the said shopping complex was constructed to adjust all the shops existing on the Baird Lane;

(c) whether the NDMC have allotted a few shops in the complex and several shops still remain on the Baird Lane;

(d) whether the Administrator of the NDMC have deliberately favoured in the allotment of shops; and

(e) the reasons for not adjusting all the shops in the complex and offering a large number of shops by Open Tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It was initially decided by the New Delhi Municipal Council to accommodate all the 92 rehabilitation shops at Baird Lane in the New Shopping Complex, but it was later considered more feasible to accommodate only half the number of shops in the said Complex in the first phase so as to allow NDMC to meet the huge expenditure incurred on construction of this Complex by allotting the remaining shops in the Complex on tender basis. The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi which subsequently considered the matter upheld the decision taken by the NDMC and also rejected the plea for any change in draw of lots. It is envisaged to accommodate the remaining 46 rehabilitation shops at Baird Lane in the Complex in Phasc-11 of its construction.

Shifting of Headquarters of D.G., Light ' House to NOIDA

2693. SMT. MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering its earlier decision regarding shifting of Headquarters of Director General, Light House and Light Ship from R.K. Puram to NOIDA;

(b) the rationale behind purchasing residential accommodations in NOIDA some three-four years back when office building construction has not been finalised;

(c) whether the said accommodations would benefit only the new entrants of the Directorate as the most of the staff has already given General Pool Government accommodation in New Delhi; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The construction work of Office building at NOIDA was entrusted to the CPWD and is in progress. As the NOI DA authorities did not allot land for construction of residential accommoda tion and offered ready-built flats under housing scheme, residential quarters were purchased by the Department before completion of construction of the new Office building.

(c) and (d) The officers and staff work-- ing in the Department of Lighthouses & Lightships in the new office at NOIDA will not be entitled to get residential accommodation from the General Pool Government accommodation in Delhi and, therefore, the residential accommodation of the department at NOIDA would benefit the old as well the new entrants of the Department.

Fencing of Indo-Pak Border

2694. SHRI RAHAS BIHAR1 BARIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work pertaining to the fencing of Indo-Pak border has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are now planning to revive the fencing programme:

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) The work pertaining to the fencing on Indo-Pak border has not been aban-